Chapter 102 A Man of the Sea's Self-Awareness

We've been waiting to hear those words, Bon!
We'll have that spy boat up before you can say Jack!
We're used to your wishy-washy ways by now

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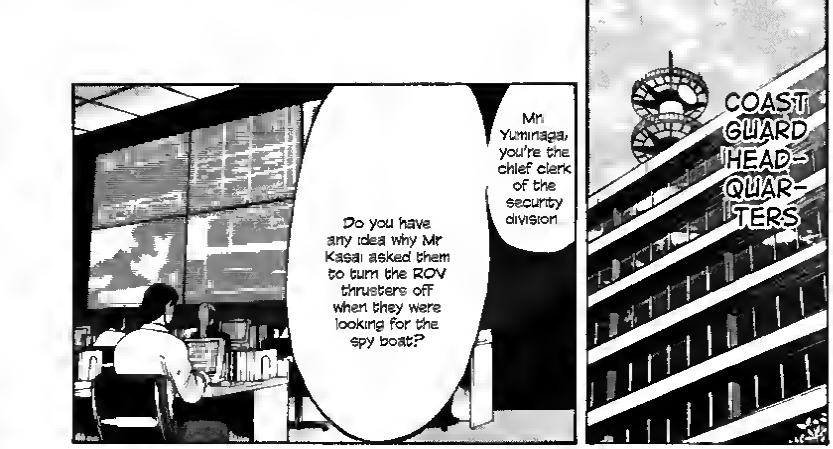
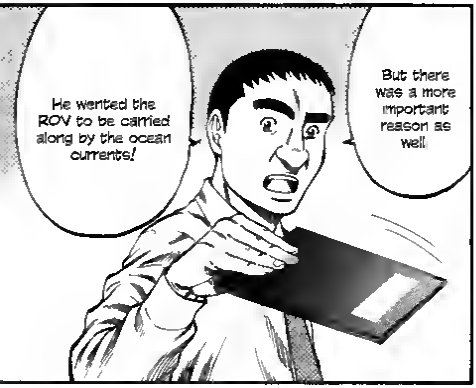
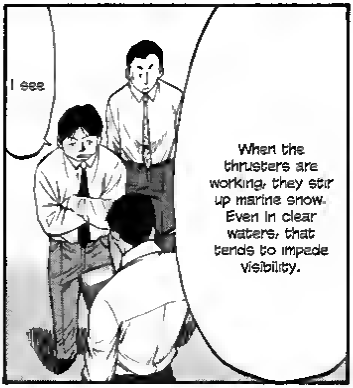

COAST GUARD HEAD-QUAR-TERS
Mr Yuminaga, you're the chief clerk of the security division.
Do you have any idea why Mr Kasai asked them to turn the ROV thrusters off when they were looking for the spy boat?


He wanted the ROV to be carried along by the ocean currents!
But there was a more important reason as well.


I see.
When the thrusters are working, they stir up marine snow. Even in clear waters, that tends to impede visibility.

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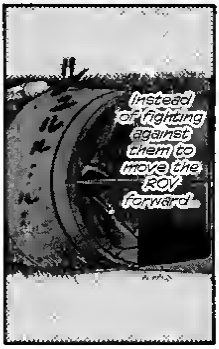
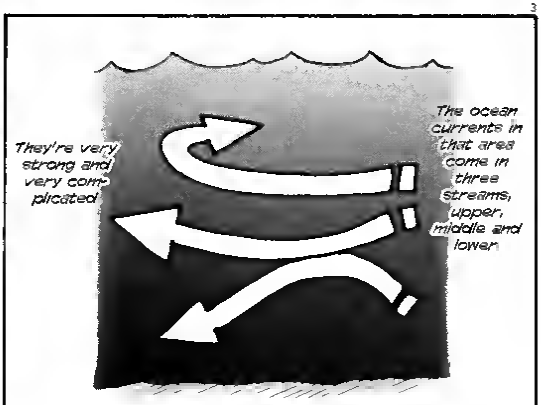

Instead of fighting against them to move the ROV forward...


They're very strong and very complicated.
The ocean currents in that area come in three streams, upper, middle and lower.

So it would be guided by the ocean currents...
He let it drift along...
And eventually find the heavy spy boat...
Somewhere along the path of the currents!

There's just one thing I don't get.
Me neither.
I didn't think that far.
Wow, amazing!
Nanba even refused the job, but I hear the chief talked to them into it.
Why is he so hung up on a small operation like Nanba Salvage? Why not call in SMATT or some of the local big players?
If Mr. Kasai is so smart...
What are you going to do with that ROV footage?
.....
Why?
.....

Are you going to show it to Narita Salvage?!
If anyone finds out, you could be arrested.
Taking that footage outside is against official regulations!
I've looked up to you since our Coast Guard Academy days.
Kasai-sem-pai...
If you want them to see it that badly, why not bring them here?
I was so happy when we finally got to work together here at Headquarters...
They won't come, so I have to go!

I don't...
Know...
We'll need their strength...
To raise that boat!

We determined on the 14th that the spy boat touched bottom at an area 420 metres north of where it sank. We discovered the boat at longitude 29.13 degrees and latitude 125.24 degrees at a depth of 96 metres!
Thanks to the efforts of patrol boats searching the area...
Yes, it is
The best salvage technicians in the world are currently working on a raising plan. They have informed us that it is technically possible to raise this boat!
Now that you have found it, are you going to raise it?!
We are an investigative body, and our duty is to find out the truth. In order to bring the full truth to light, we will raise that boat without fail!
Is it actually possible to raise a boat from a depth of 96 metres?

Where are they now?
For their own safety, I cannot reveal their location
Wonder how much this salvage is gonna cost them
It's the government! They've got money out the wazoo Money's no object!
Whoa, a bottomless budget? Sweet!
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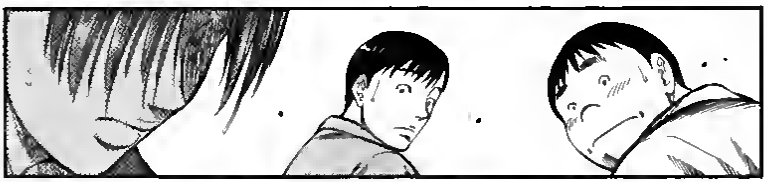
If we had to pay that kind of money we'd go broke on the spot!
Heck I wanna become a salvor, if I'm gonna get paid like that!
I-I don't think it's as easy as you make it sound!

"I don't want to go to the place... where Kakihara was shot."
People got shot, people died...
We can't even imagine...
What it must be like at a place like that...



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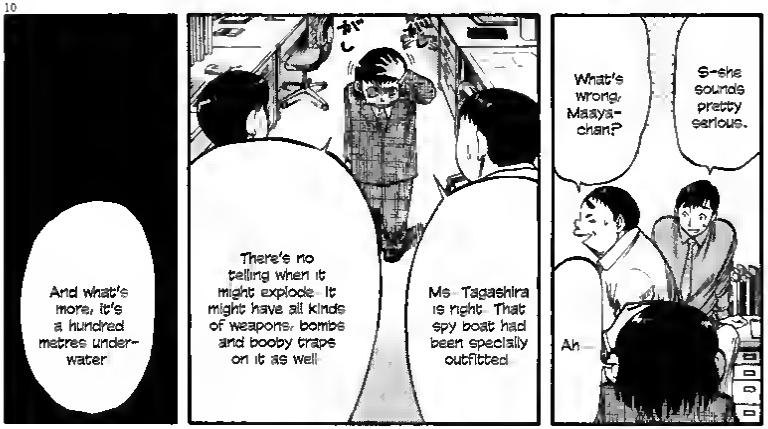
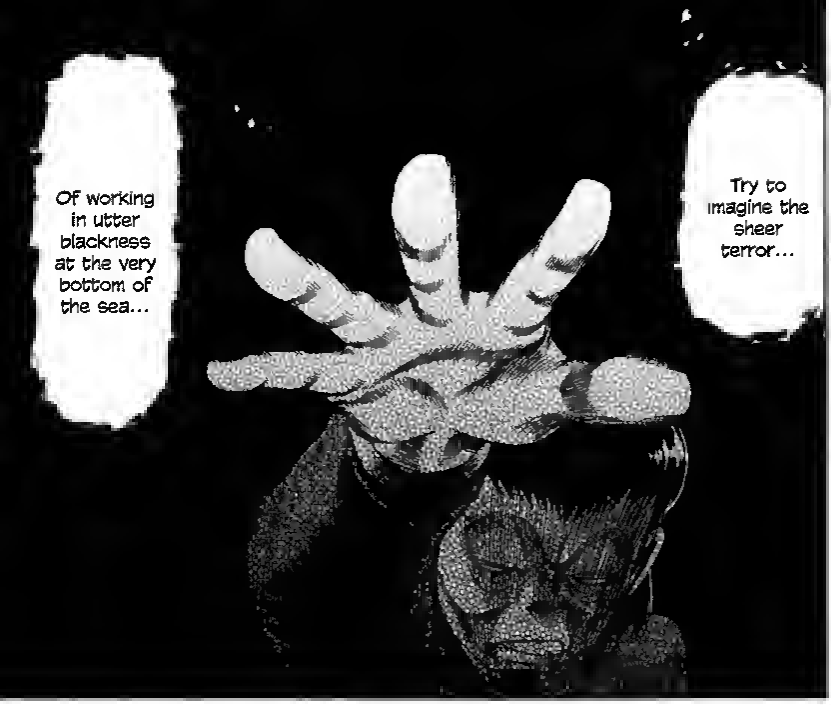
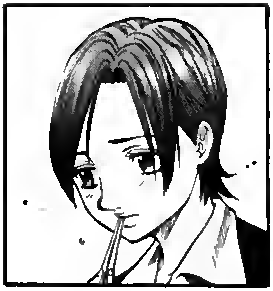
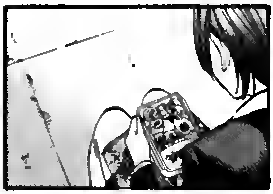

And what's more, it's a hundred metres underwater
There's no telling when it might explode. It might have all kinds of weapons, bombs and booby traps on it as well
Ms. Tagashira is right. That spy boat had been specially outfitted
What's wrong, Maaya-chan?
S-she sounds pretty serious.
Ah...

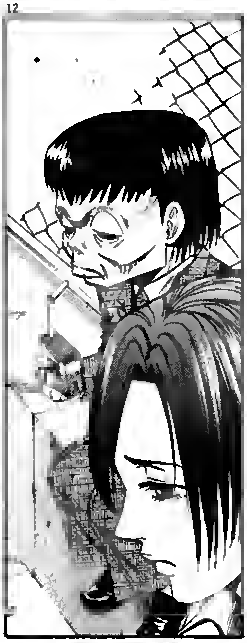

Try to imagine the sheer terror...
Of working in utter blackness at the very bottom of the sea...

No matter how much they pay you...
Is it ever worth your life?
Uhh...
Think I'll go shuffle some papers...

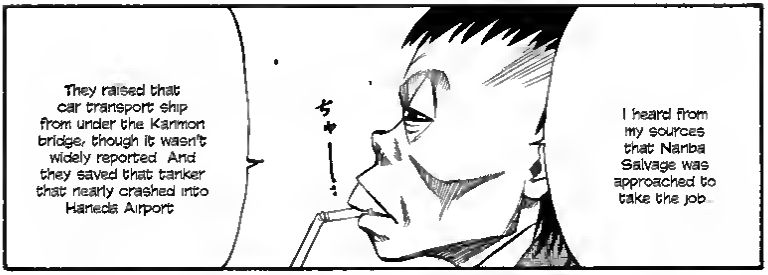




So it's really that dangerous, huh?
Yes. The rewards are huge, but the risks are huge too.
"Utter blackness" was an exaggeration though.
It's possible that North Korea will try to interfere somehow as well



I told Ri--
Uhh, I told the owner of Nanba Salvage..
Not to go.


They raised that car transport ship from under the Kanmon bridge, though it wasn't widely reported. And they saved that tanker that nearly crashed into Haneda Airport.
ちゃ…!!
I heard from my sources that Nanba Salvage was approached to take the job.

Nanba Salvage is a very skilled salvage company. I'm not surprised the Coast Guard trusts them.
Not to mention they had the skill to refloat that container ship that crashed into the sea wall in no time at all.

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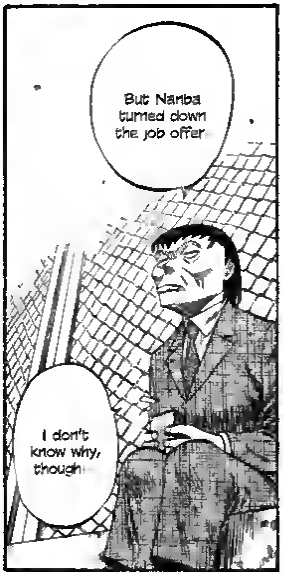
Rin-chan's friend...
Was shot in the incident and is now paralyzed.


But Nanba turned down the job offer.
I don't know why, though.

Rin-chan was so shocked, he said he didn't want to get involved
That's why he turned down the raising job
I didn't know what to say to him, so
I blurted out...
"Don't go."
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What should I have said?
Wait!
You're an ex-sailor, Mr. Dan. You should know
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Ah...
I don't know much about that sort of thing
All I can tell is

Ms. Tagashira...
You really do like Nanba, don't you?
Eh?!
No...
Of course not...
.....

I'm so glad he refused
I didn't want him to get mixed up in something so dangerous.

Anyway, I'm relieved now.

What?
You mean you haven't heard?

The Coast Guard approached Nanba Salvage again.
And this time they formally accepted the job.

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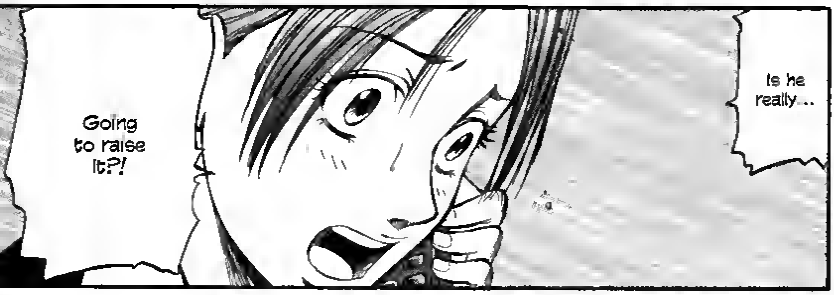
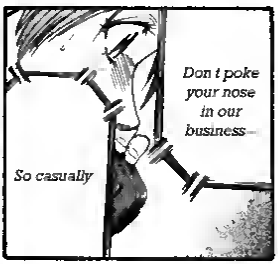
トゥルルルル
Yes?
This is Nanba Salvage.

U-um, this is Tagashira
Is Rin...
Is Rintarou there?!
I tried to call his cell phone but I couldn't get through. When will he be back?
He's in a meeting at Kasumigaseki right now
No idea
.....
He's out right now.

Is it about the raising of the spy boat?
A meeting?
Is it...


Going to raise it?!
Is he really...

You're not very bright, are you?


So casually
Don t poke your nose in our business

I thought I told you before
Umm

The boss...
Has become a man of the sea!